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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/661,392

09/12/2003

Jeffrey George

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05/05/2006

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EXAMINER

KARKHANIS, AASHISH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/661,392	Applicant(s) GEORGE ET AL.	
	Examiner Aashish Karkhanis	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/23/05; 11/30/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1 – 12, 14, 22 – 28, 30 – 40 and 50 – 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sarno (U.S. Patent 6,024,641).

Regarding Claims 1 and 30, Sarno discloses a remote system for use with a gaming system for implementing a player tracking system and having at least one gaming machine playable by a player (col. 1, lins. 8 – 18), a host computer coupled to the at least one gaming machine by a network (col. 3, lins. 58 – 62), including a remote device, the remote device being embodied in a mobile computer which may be carried by a user (col. 4, lins. 18 – 19; where a personal digital assistant is a handheld device); and, a remote network interface coupled to the remote device for exchanging data between the host computer and the remote device, the data including sign-up information to enroll the player in the player tracking system by filling out a fillable form (col. 7, lins. 18 – 32; where a user inputs information into a web client attendance form to register and begin play of a game).

Regarding Claims 2 – 5 and 31 – 34, Sarno discloses a remote device coupled to the remote network interface by a wireless connection, where a wireless connection uses an IEEE 802.11 standard including IEEE 802.11b or IEEE 802.11g (col. 4, lins. 44

Art Unit: 3714

– 47; where an IEEE 802.11 standard and its sub-standards are all specific and inherent embodiments of generic wireless connection methods).

Regarding Claims 6 – 10 and 35 – 38, Sarno discloses a remote device having a processor (col. 4, lin. 11) and a web client for interaction with a user for acquiring input via a web client from the user, formatting and presenting data to the user (col. 6, lins. 21 – 22), including a signup form, player information, the signup form being fillable with the player information by a user, the remote device for sending the signup form and player information to the remote network interface device (col. 7, lins. 18 – 32; where a user inputs information into a web client attendance form to register and begin play of a game over a network), where the signup form is accessible through the web client (col. 6, lins. 21 – 22).

Regarding Claims 11 – 12 and 39 – 40, Sarno discloses a remote network interface for confirming that all required information on the signup form was entered and instructing the remote display to display an error message if all required information was not entered (col. 5, lins. 41 – 44; where a player is granted access to a gaming system if information is invalid and inherently shown an error message if a login attempt fails as is well known in the art), with player information including a zip code (fig. 4, elem. 49) and a room number (fig. 4, elem. 49; where a room number may be a component of an address, such as an apartment number), the remote network interface for determining if the zip code is valid (col. 7, lins. 18 – 27; col. 7, lins. 43 – 46; where zip code information is contained within and verified with address information).

Art Unit: 3714

Regarding Claims 22 – 24 and 50 – 52, Sarno discloses a remote device including a plurality of servlets (col. 7, lins. 5 – 16; where different games, areas, and functions of a web site may be implemented as servlets served to a client computer), a login layer (col. 5, lin. 34), and a menu layer (col. 7, lins. 6 – 9).

Regarding Claims 25 – 28 and 53 – 56, Sarno discloses a remote system with a user having an assigned type (col. 5, lins. 41 – 44; where a user account is of a valid or invalid type), the menu layer for allowing accessing to servlets and restricting access to servlets as a function of the assigned type (col. 5, lins. 41 – 44; where a user account is of a valid or invalid type, and access to game system servlets is restricted based on validity of an account), where the data includes a player name, a player ID card number, and a personal identification number (col. 7, lins. 23 – 27; where a card number is a player identifier and personal identification number).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 15 – 21 and 43 – 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarno in view of Ramakrishnan (Database Management Systems. 1998, McGraw Hill. ISBN 0-07-050775-9).

Regarding Claims 15 – 20 and 43 – 48, Sarno discloses a remote system for storing and retrieving data and a third object is coupled to the remote network interface

Art Unit: 3714

for receiving queries from the interface, retrieving, formatting, and returning responsive data from the database to the remote device (col. 3, lins. 65 – 67; where an interface between storage and a network is provided to make a host computer's data accessible to clients). Sarno does not disclose a specific type of data storage including a database consisting of tables with first data objects coupled to the database tables or a second data objects for assembling first data objects. However, Ramakrishnan teaches a database for storing data in database tables (p. 21, para. 2) with a plurality of first data objects coupled to the database tables for retrieving and storing data in the database tables (p. 22, para. 2; where relations such as data types are formed within tables), at least one second data object coupled to the first data objects for assembling multiple first data objects into a third data object (p. 21, para. 2; where a second object is a database collecting all tables of a database). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the generic network based storage device as disclosed by Sarno with the specific table and database related storage system as taught by Ramakrishnan in order to provide a more organized and efficient method of accessing and manipulating data.

Regarding Claims 21 and 49, Sarno discloses a remote device including a processor (col. 4, lin. 11) and a web client for interaction with a user (col. 6, lins. 21 – 22) and an interface for formatting responsive data into a hyper text mark-up language response for display by the web client (col. 4, lin. 8).

3. Claims 13, 29, 41 – 42 and 57 – 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarno in view of Holch et al. (U.S. Patent 5,674,128).

Regarding Claims 13 and 41 – 42, Sarno discloses a room number (fig. 4, elem. 49; where a room number may be a component of an address, such as an apartment number), the remote network interface for determining if the zip code is valid (col. 7, lins. 18 – 27; col. 7, lins. 43 – 46; where zip code information is contained within and verified with address information) and allowing access to a game once information has been validated, but does not disclose creating a new user record. However, Holch teaches creating a record in the database containing the player, retrieving additional player information from the database, and creating a record in the database containing the player and additional player information (col. 5, lins. 60 – 65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the gaming system including a login and database of Sarno with the method of storing player identification information prior to a first start of the game in order to increase convenience for player who wishes to play a game more than once without having to enter identification information during play of each session.

Regarding Claim 29 and 57 – 58, Sarno discloses a remote device including a touchscreen display (col. 4, lins. 18 – 19; where a personal digital assistant may inherently contain a touchscreen), but does not disclose capturing a signature. However, Holch teaches capturing a signature of the player, the data including the signature (col. 5, lins. 56 – 58). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the touchscreen player device of Sarno with the method of capturing a player signature for central storage as taught by Holch in order to increase player identification security.

Regarding Claims 59 – 62, Sarno discloses a remote system where a user is identified and allowed access to a gaming environment based on an identification card (col. 7, lins. 23 – 27), but does not disclose a specific method of assigning a player card to a player based on a player's valid identification information. However, Holch teaches a method where the remote device includes a barcode reader or ID card reader, and allowing the user to enter the ID Card number includes reading the ID card number from an unassigned player ID Card using the barcode reader or ID card reader and assigning the player ID Card to the player when enrolling the player in the player tracking system (col. 5, lins. 43 – 65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the remote gaming system of Sarno where a player uses an identification card created from valid identification information with the method of assigning a card to player as taught by Holch in order to create a complete gaming system where a player may be assigned a card and then use that card in a gaming environment.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 5,984,786: Game network with relational database.

U.S. Patent: 4,764,666: Game network cards.

Art Unit: 3714

U.S. Patent 5,797,796: Database error checking.

U.S. Patent 5,586,937: Gaming System with remote terminals.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aashish Karkhanis whose telephone number is 571-272-2774. The examiner can normally be reached on 0800-1630 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Scott Jones can be reached on (571) 272-4438. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ARK

JOHN M. HOTALING, II
PRIMARY EXAMINER

